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MR. AMERICA-MR. UNIVERSE

SECRET

MUSCLE-BUILDING "TOOLS"

TO "CARVE" YOUR BODY INTO MUSCULAR SHAPE

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"Trainer of the Champions"
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"007" POWER TWISTER

Like Mr. America, Dave Draper, you can twist for 10 minutes daily with this exciting new exerciser! Packs power and muscle into your arms—adds inches to your chest—builds rippling back muscles—thickens and strengthens your wrists for sports or work. Fun to use. Needs no adjusting or setting—twist it instantly—as it comes out of the box!

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Puts fearsome, "octopus"-gripping power into your hands and fingers. New!—specially imported from the Karate Masters of Japan. Use it 5-minutes daily and feel new strength and deadly power surge into your hands **instantly!** Develops a powerful grip for all sports! Builds "Mr. Universe" wrists and forearms. Sturdy but lightweight—take it with you ANYWHERE!

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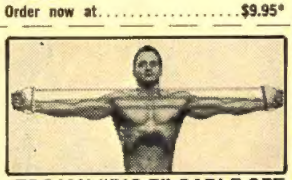

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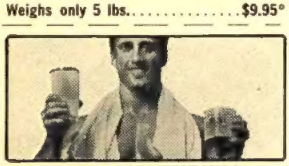

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AS IN SOME CRUEL UNENDING DREAM,
WHEN TH' MOON CASTS DARKE UPON TH'MOOR!
'TIS THE HOUND O'HELL WHOSE FIERY BREATH
BRYNGS NIGHTMARE DREAD, DISPAIRE AND DEATH,
WHEN TH'MOON CASTS DARKE UPON TH'MOOR!
BLACKE FIRE GLOWING 'TWIXT HIS TEETH,
HE SEEKS FRESH SOULS FOR ENDLESS SLEEP,
YET NONE DARE TRACK THAT PHANTOM FLEEING,
LEAPING LYKE SOME HELL-BOUND BEING,
WHEN TH'MOON CASTS DARKE UPON TH'MOOR!
B'WARE, THEN, TH'BRUTE BEAST'S FEARFUL THRUST,
FALL NOT PREY TO HIS VENGEFUL LUST,
WHEN TH'MOON CASTS DARKE UPON THE MOOR!
olde Scottish legend.

NICK FURY DEFIES THE DEVIL HIMSELF AS HE UNRAVELS THE LURKING FEAR ON THE MOORS OF *CASTLE RAVENLOCK*
STAN LEE, EDITOR · *JIM STERANKO*, WRITER and ILLUSTRATOR · *DAN ADKINS*, INKER · *SAM ROSEN*, LETTERER

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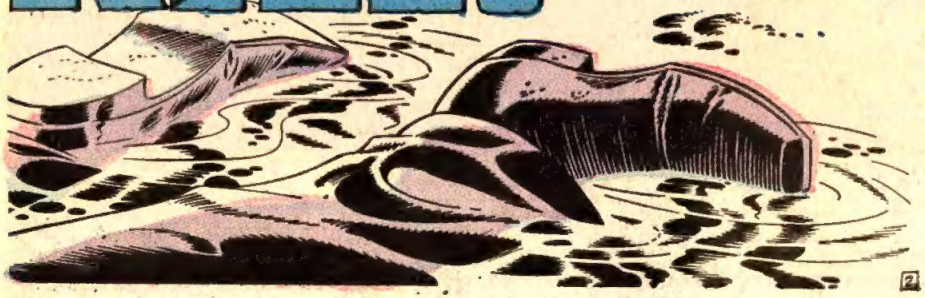
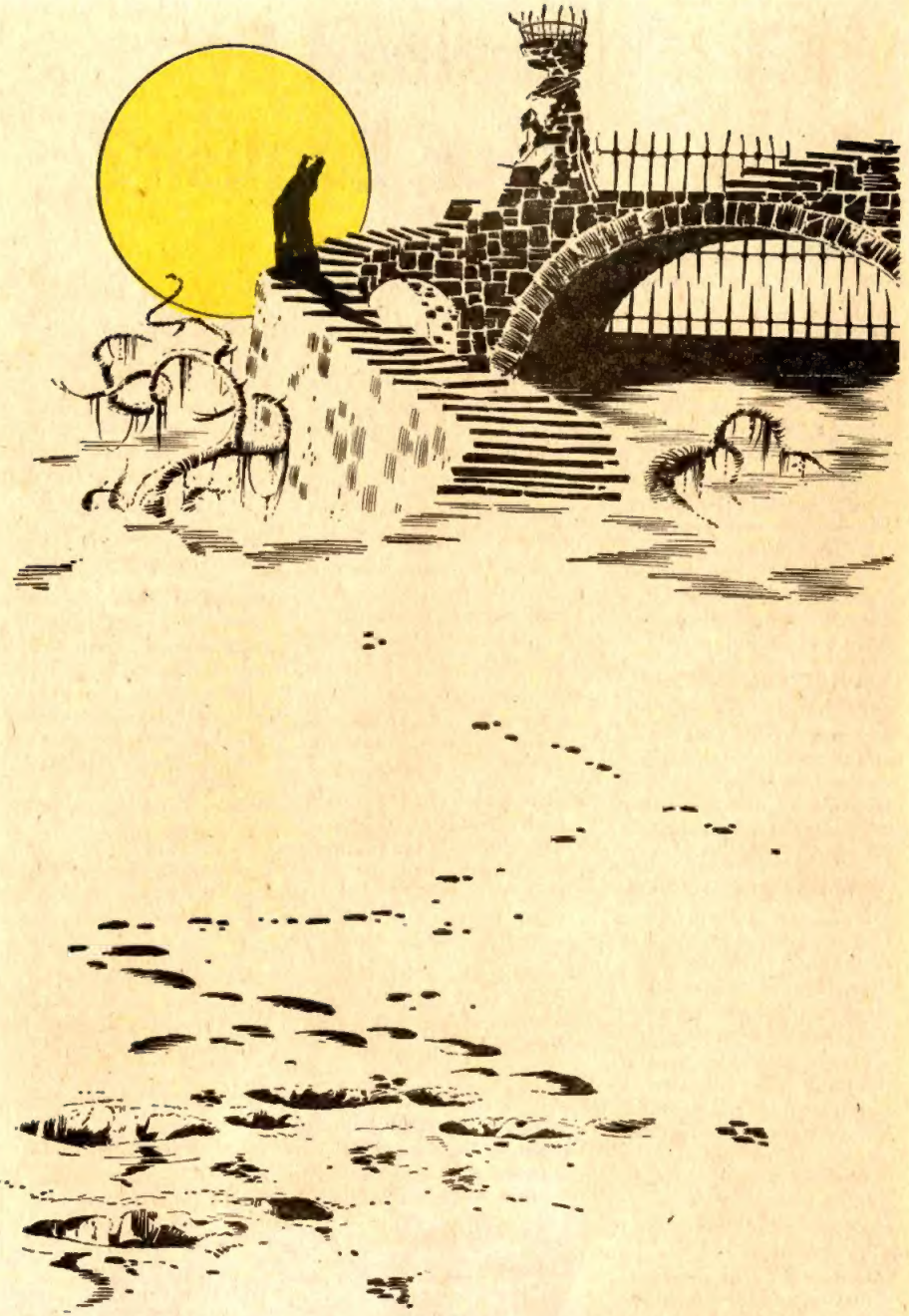
DARK MOON RISE, HELL HOUND KILL!





Don Bolander, M.A., University of Chicago; B.S., Northwestern University; Director of Career Institute; authority on adult education

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You can soon speak and write like a college graduate if you let me help you for 15 minutes a day.

If you've ever been shamed by a mistake in English, maybe I can save you from years of disappointment.

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If people are not impressed by the way you speak and write—and if you're honest enough with yourself to admit it—you have already taken the first big step to success.

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Answer: It means you can express yourself clearly and easily without fear of embarrassment or making mistakes.

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Answer: Yes! Words are actually "tools of thought." The more you learn about words and how to use them to form and express your ideas, the better your *thinking* becomes.

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...AND THE NEXT DAY WE FOUND HIS BODY ON THE MOOR! BUT THERE WAS NOTHING WE COULD DO...NOTHING ANYONE COULD DO!
YOU SEE, MISTER FURY... ONE DOES NOT WALK ON THE MOORS ALONE ...AT NIGHT!
BUT, I'M AFRAID I FAIL TO UNDERSTAND YOUR INTEREST IN ALL THIS! ARE YOU A RELATIVE OF MISTER ASTOR?
ME AND KEN...WE WERE IN THE WAR TOGETHER... BLITZIN' HITLER'S GOONS!
HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN YEARS...SUDDENLY, THIS CABLEGRAM SHOWS UP OUTTA THE BLUE!
I WAS HIS SARGE IN THE BIG ONE! NOW, THERE WAS SOMETHIN' HE HAD TA TELL ME...BUT WHAT?
I CROSSED THE OCEAN TA FIND OUT, MISTER...NOW, YA TELL ME HE'S...
HE WAS WARNED BY LORD RAVENLOCK NOT TO WANDER OVER THE MOOR AFTER DARK... BUT HE INSISTED!
HE WAS THE LOCAL CONSTABLE... HE KNEW THAT OFTEN THE UNEXPECTED HAPPENS HERE WHEN DARKNESS FALLS!
MEBBE SO, BUT I JUST CAN'T BUY THAT TALE YA PUT TO ME... THAT THING YOU SAY GOT HIM... WHAT'D YA CALL IT?
THE HELL-HOUND! PARDON US FOR THE INTRUSION, GENTLEMEN! PERHAPS, WE CAN HELP!
HUH! HOW CAN YA HELP A DEAD MAN?
THE DEAD CAN SOMETIMES HELP US! PERMIT ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF AND MY COLLEAGUES!
MY NAME IS MYCROFT...AND MY ASSOCIATES... COUNTESS CAUTION AND MY YOUNG WARD RACHEL!
WE'RE HERE AT THE REQUEST OF LORD GAVIN RAVENLOCK...HERE TO INVESTIGATE THE PHENOMENA AT THE CASTLE!
YOU MIGHT CALL US PSYCHIC DETECTIVES... GHOST HUNTERS, IF YOU WILL!

SCOTLAND IS WELL KNOWN FOR ITS GHOSTS 'N PUFF AND THE LIKE! MATTER OF FACT, THE LOCH NESS AND ITS FAMOUS CREATURE LIES ONLY A FEW KILOMETERS FROM HERE!
SO THEN, PERHAPS WE CAN HELP YOU AFTER ALL! WE'VE FREQUENTLY WORKED TOGETHER SOLVING MYSTERIES OF THE SUPERNATURAL!
IN FACT, WE HAD HOPED TO HOLD A SEANCE THIS VERY EVENING!
ONE OF US HAS ALREADY HAD UN-EARTHLY CONTACT!
YES, RACHEL CLAIMS A SPIRIT VOICE HAS GIVEN A WARNING... TO LEAVE RAVENLOCK FOREVER!
WELL, I AIN'T MUCH ON GHOSTS AN' THAT... BUT I'VE SEEN TOO MUCH NOT TA KEEP AN OPEN MIND!
SO IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'LL JUST TAG ALONG ON YER LITTLE GHOST HUNT!
I DON'T SEE WHY NO... GOOD LORD!

HEY! WHY IN SAM HILL DON'T YA PAY ATTENTION, MISS? THAT SUIT OF ARMOR COULD'A KILLED YA!
PLEASE... FORGIVE ME... BUT YOU SEE... I'M..
BLIND!
SUDDENLY, THE HALLWAY DOOR IS THROWN OPEN...
ANGUS!
AYE, MON! LORD GAVIN HAN'T BACK FRUM THE VILLAGE YET!
WOULD YOU BE WANTIN' ME TO TAKE THE DOGS AN' LOOK FOR HIM?
LORD RAVENLOCK CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF, MACGREGOR!
NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, STAY! I WAS ABOUT TO TELL OUR GUESTS ABOUT... THE CURSE!
THEN, P'HAPS YOU'D WANT ME TO BE TELLIN' IT, MISTER RAMPSON! YOU BEIN' ONLY LORD GAVIN'S STEPSON!
THAT VOICE... THE SOMBER TONES... I'VE HEARD IT BEFORE SOMEWHERE!... BUT WHERE... WHERE?
NOW THEN, LIKE I WAS SAYIN'... IT ALL BEGAN MORE'N A HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE I BECAME CARETAKER OF THE HOUSE OF RAVENLOCK..!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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only $1.60 EA.

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YOUTH – MEDIUM, LARGE
ADULT – SMALL, MEDIUM, LARGE

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WE'VE ONLY GOT A *LIMITED SUPPLY*, FRANTIC ONES, SO RUSH YOUR ORDER IN NOW!

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TOTAL $

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HULK ☐ YOUTH ☐ ADULT

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STRAT-O-MATIC BASEBALL is the best baseball game I ever have had. Kids swamp over the back porch to play this game! Boy, it is a lot of fun! Thank you for making such a wonderful game. —*P. C., Attleboro, Mass.*

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It has given me more pleasure than any other game. —*S. E., Rossville, Ind.*

The most exciting and fun game ever. —*L.S., Boston, Mass.*

It is so stupendous, words can't explain. —*J. R., Brooklyn, N. Y.*

Best on the market. —*J. E., Miami, Fla.*

Has given me more enjoyment than I have ever had from any one thing in my entire life. It's worth its weight in gold. As I love baseball, this game gives me something enjoyable to do during the off seasons as well as during the season. —*S. C., Temple City, Calif.*

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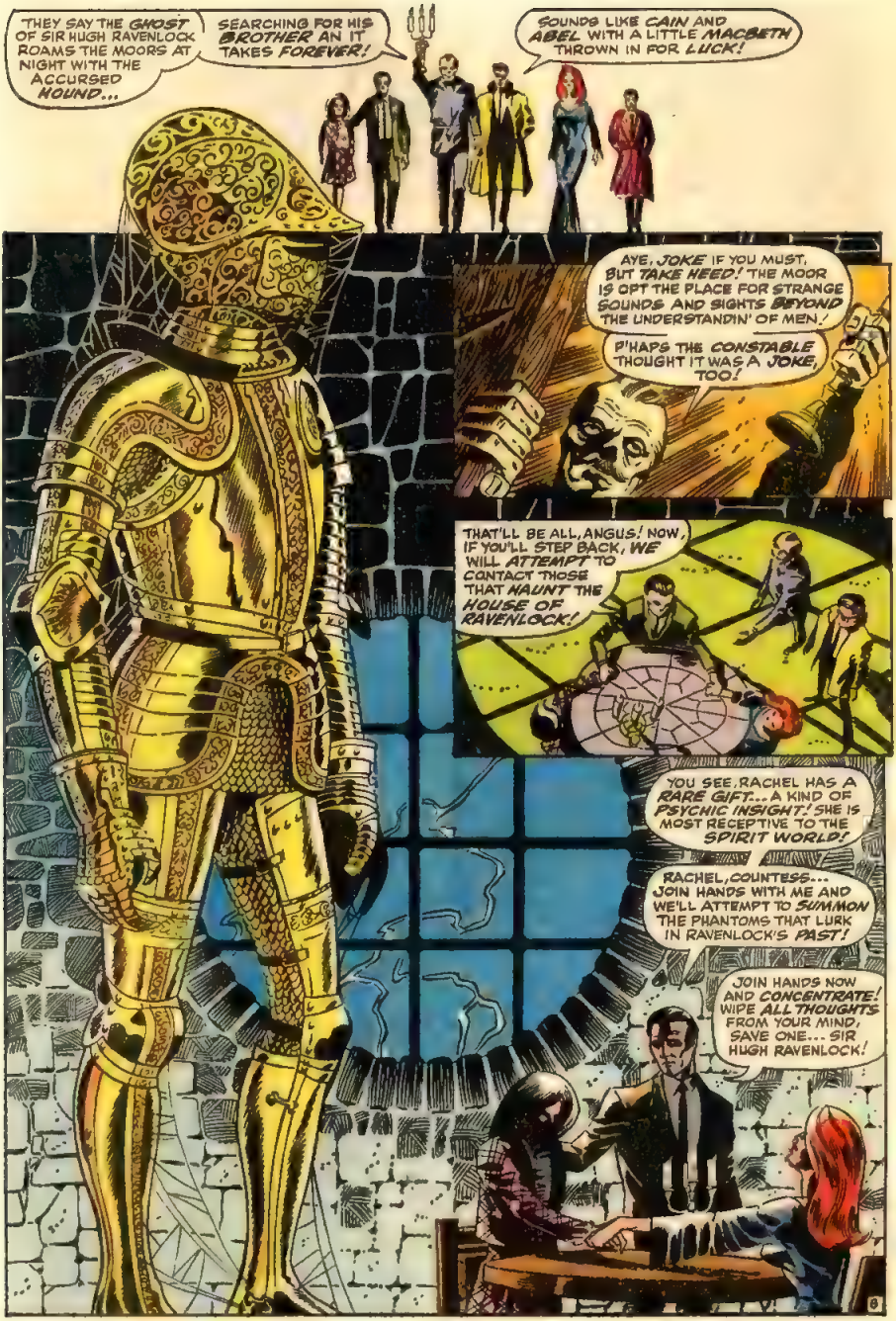
THE CASTLE THEN BELONGED TO LORD HUGH RAVENLOCK... CALLED BLACK HUGH BY THOSE WHO KNEW HIM.... AN FEW DID, FUR HE WAS A VILE AND DEPRAVED MON! THERE WERE THOSE WHO CLAIMED HE WAS A DEVIL WORSHIPPER! AYE THERE WAS MANY A MON WHO SUFFERED FRUM HIS CRUEL AND INHUMAN HAND...!"
"TWAS LATE ONE NIGHT, THAT HUGH'S YOUNG BRIDE WAS TAKEN AWAY BY HIS BROTHER, FOR SHE COULD NO LONGER BEAR HIS BRUTISH WAYS! WHEN BLACK HUGH DISCOVERED SHE WAS GONE, HE FLEW INTO A FRENZY LIKE A RAVIN' LUNATIC AND SWORE VENGEANCE ON BOTH OF THEM! THEN, WITH HIS GIANT HOUND, PURR-SUED THEM ACROSS THE MOORS IN AN UNCONTROLLABLE RAGE OF BLOOD LUST..!"
"THE LEGEND GOES ON TA SAY THAT THE PAIR WAS SOON OVERTAKEN AN' WHILE THE BEAST ATTACKED THE WOMAN, BLACK HUGH WAS KILLED BY HIS BROTHER! IT WAS SAID HE DROWNED IN THE LOCH FOR HE WAS NEVER SEEN AGAIN... A'COURSE IT'S JUST A TALE...!"
7


THEY SAY THE GHOST OF SIR HUGH RAVENLOCK ROAMS THE MOORS AT NIGHT WITH THE ACCURSED HOUND...
SEARCHING FOR HIS BROTHER AN IT TAKES FOREVER!
SOUNDS LIKE CAIN AND ABEL WITH A LITTLE MACBETH THROWN IN FOR LUCK!
AYE, JOKE IF YOU MUST, BUT TAKE HEED! THE MOOR IS OPT THE PLACE FOR STRANGE SOUNDS AND SIGHTS BEYOND THE UNDERSTANDIN' OF MEN.
P'HAPS THE CONSTABLE THOUGHT IT WAS A JOKE, TOO!
THAT'LL BE ALL, ANGUS! NOW, IF YOU'LL STEP BACK, WE WILL ATTEMPT TO CONTACT THOSE THAT HAUNT THE HOUSE OF RAVENLOCK!
YOU SEE, RACHEL HAS A RARE GIFT... A KIND OF PSYCHIC INSIGHT! SHE IS MOST RECEPTIVE TO THE SPIRIT WORLD!
RACHEL, COUNTESS... JOIN HANDS WITH ME AND WE'LL ATTEMPT TO SUMMON THE PHANTOMS THAT LURK IN RAVENLOCK'S PAST!
JOIN HANDS NOW AND CONCENTRATE! WIPE ALL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR MIND, SAVE ONE... SIR HUGH RAVENLOCK!

WAIT! I... SENSE... SOMETHING!
IT...IT'S A PRESENCE!
IT'S MOVING... IT'S COMING CLOSER!
YES...IT'S HERE!
AYE! HEAR ME LASS! HAVE I NOT WARMED YOU TO KEEP STRANGERS OUT OF RAVEN-LOCK?
YUV BETRAYED ME, WOMAN... NOW YE MUST PAY THE PENALTY FOR DECEIVING BLACK HUGH!
NOW ONLY YURR BLOOD CAN QUENCH THE THIRST OF MY VENGEANCE!
GHOST OR NOT, MISTER, YOU AIN'T DOIN' NOTHIN' WHILE...
-UNNNGH!-
9.

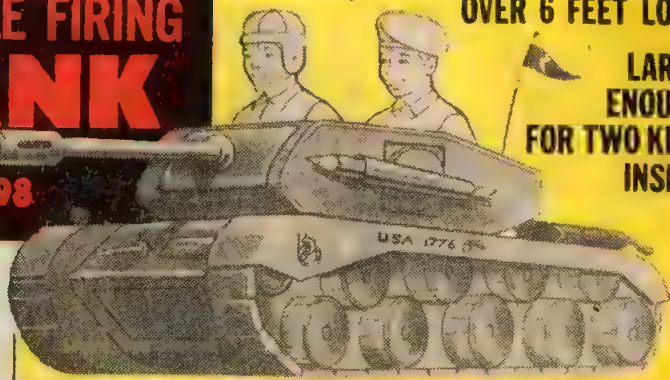
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

MISSILE FIRING TANK

ONLY $6.98

OVER 6 FEET LONG

LARGE ENOUGH FOR TWO KIDS INSIDE



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It's Mobile—Pilot Gunner gets INSIDE—Guns Swivel—Turret Turns.

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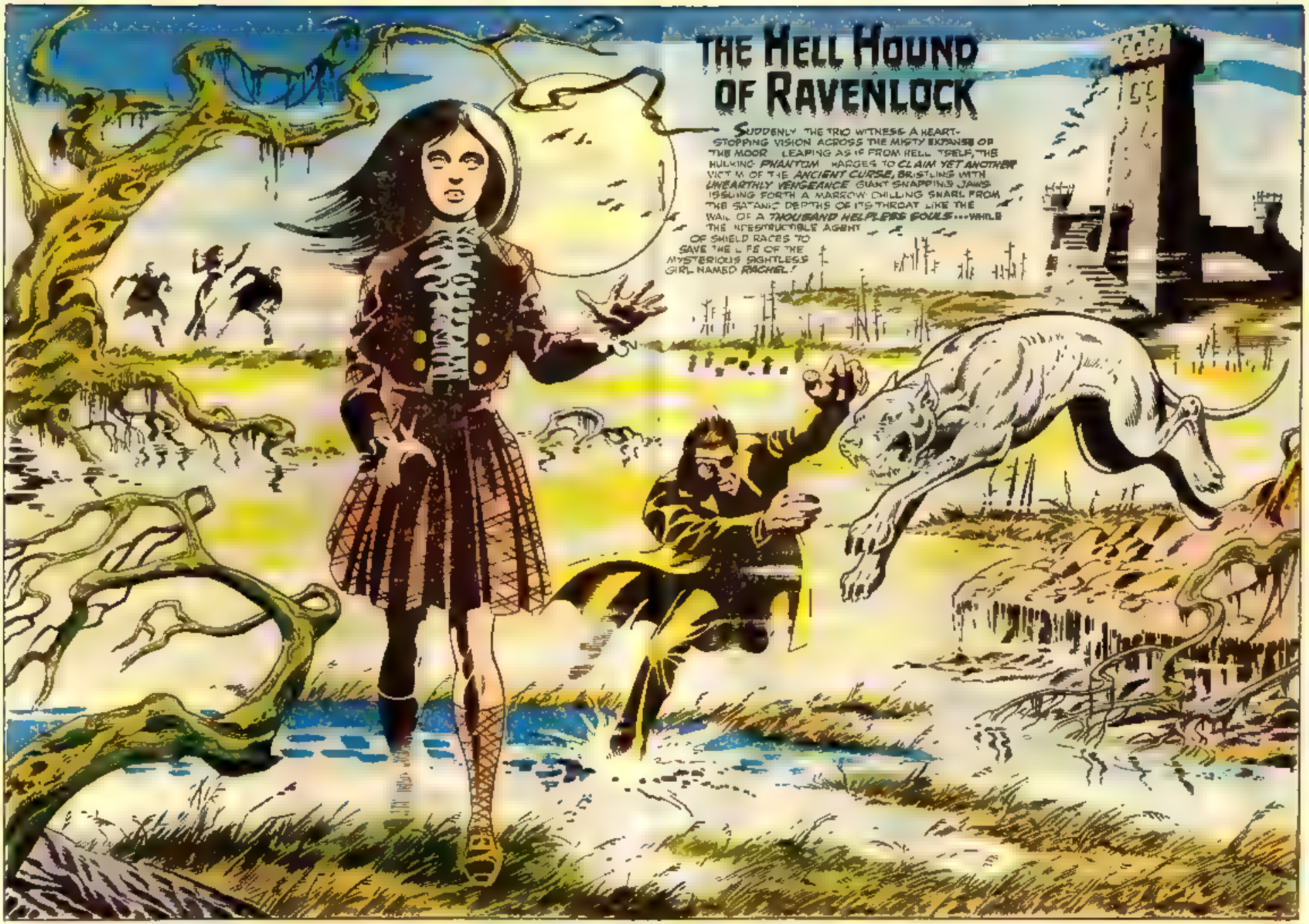
THE GIRL... SHE WAS RIGHT... IT'S HUGH RAVENLOCK... OR IS IT?
YURR A FOOL, STRANGER! NO MON DRAWS A BLADE AGAINST BLACK HUGH...
AND LIVES TO TELL ABOUT IT!
GOTTA DO SOMETHIN' QUICK... 'FORE THAT SCHIAVONA CUTS ME IN TWO!
DIRKS... THEY'LL HAVE TA DO!
LINGHH! HE PACKS A LOT OF PUNCH FOR A SPOOK! BEST I CAN HOPE TA DO IS PARRY... BUT FOR HOW LONG?
IT'S LIKE A NIGHTMARE! THE LIGHTNING FLASHES OF THE STORM... JUST GIVIN' ME GLIMPSES OF HIM!
SOONER OR LATER, I'M GONNA WIND UP ON THE END OF THAT STEEL!

FUNNY THING... I FELT HIS PRESENCE, TOO ENUGH! AN' I AIN'T NO BLASTED GHOST-DETECTIVE!
BEEN LUCKY SO FAR! BUT, ANY MORE'A THIS FANCY SWORDPLAY AN' HE'LL RUN ME THRU FOR SURE!
GOTTA TRY FOR A DIRECT HIT!
CRR-RIPES! GOT HIM DEAD CENTER... AN' HE'S ONLY FADIN' AWAY!
RACHEL!! SHE..SHE'S OUTSIDE... ON THE MOOR!
NO! NO!! WE MUST STOP HER... BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
THEN, BEFORE ANOTHER BREATH CAN BE TAKEN, THE INDOMITABLE NICK FURY TAKES THE QUICKEST WAY OUT...
NOT WHILE I'M AROUND, MISTER!
HERE! YOU ...YOU MAY NEED THIS!
THANKS!
THERE HE GOES! HE'LL FIND HER BEFORE...
MYCROFT... LOOK! THAT GLOW... ACROSS THE MOOR...IT.. IT'S...


THE HELL HOUND OF RAVENLOCK
SUDDENLY THE TRIO WITNESS A HEART-STOPPING VISION ACROSS THE MISTY EXPANSE OF THE MOOR LEAPING AS IF FROM HELL ITSELF, THE HULKING PHANTOM CHARGES TO CLAIM YET ANOTHER VICTIM OF THE ANCIENT CURSE, BRISTLING WITH UNEARTHLY VENGEANCE GIANT SNAPPING JAWS ISSUING FORTH A MARROW CHILLING SNARL FROM THE SATANIC DEPTHS OF ITS THROAT LIKE THE WAIL OF A THOUSAND HELPLESS SOULS...WHILE THE INDESTRUCTIBLE AGENT OF SHIELD RACES TO SAVE THE LIFE OF THE MYSTERIOUS SIGHTLESS GIRL NAMED RACHEL!

UNNGHHH!: THE HOUND... SOLID AS A ROCK...
...AND BIG AS A HORSE! I STOPPED HIM FROM GETTIN' THE GIRL...
BUT, CAN I KEEP HIM FROM TEARIN' ME TA PIECES?
HIS JAWS... BUSTIN' THE BONES IN MY ARM...
GOTTA DO SOME-THIN'... BEFORE HE RIPS MY THROAT OUT!
RAMPSON...HE'LL BE KILLED! WE'VE GOT TO HELP HIM...THAT..THAT THING---FORCING HIM TO THE GROUND!
NO...LOOK! HE'S USING THE GUN!
WHAT THE...BLASTED SLUGS DON'T STOP HIM! THEY AIN'T EVEN SLOWIN' HIM DOWN!
BUT THAT CAN'T BE... IT CAN'T BE!
YEAH...HOW DO YA KILL A GHOST? I'M FIRING RIGHT THRU HIM...NOT EVEN HURTIN' HIM!
HOW DO YA KILL A GHOST? HOW---?
HOW?
HOW?
HE..HE'S SAVED RACHEL... BUT NOW...
LOOK, IT'S ATTACKING... AGAIN...
WE MUST HELP HIM...WE MUST DRIVE THE BEAST OFF...
QUICKLY! HIS LIFE DEPENDS ON IT!
THIS IS ALL YOUR DOING, MYCROFT! NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF YOU AND YOUR GHOST CREW HAD STAYED AWAY FROM RAVEN-LOCK!
NOT NOW, RAMPSON! NOT NOW!
THE HELL-HOUND---IT'S GONE! LIKE A SPECTRE---JUST VANISHED!
BUT...ARE WE IN TIME? HE'S NOT MOVING ---COULD IT BE THAT---
=CHOKE=
GOOD LORD! HIS HANDS...!
14

FORGET IT... I'LL LIVE! JUST GOT THE WIND KNOCKED OUTTA ME!
GOTTA SEE IF THE GIRL'S ALL RIGHT!
I'M...I'M FINE! JUST A LITTLE FRIGHTENED!
YOUR HANDS...
HERE... LET ME BANDAGE THEM!
IT'S JUST A SCRATCH! THING I CAN'T FIGURE IS...
HUH! WHAT'S THAT? LISTEN... SOMEONE CALLIN'! IT'S MYCROFT..
C'MON! LET'S MOVE, BEFORE SOMETHIN' ELSE HAPPENS!
HURRY... IT'S LORD GAVIN! HE MUST HAVE BEEN ON HIS WAY FROM THE VILLAGE WHEN THE HELL-HOUND FOUND HIM!
IT..IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S DEAD!
BUT WHY WAS HE ON THE MOOR? HE KNEW ABOUT THE CURSE!
HE DIED BECAUSE OF IT!
DID HE? WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE?
I DON'T KNOW! AND NOW I SUPPOSE WE'LL NEVER FIND OUT WHY HE WAS HERE!
STILL, HE WAS ALISTAIR RAMPSON'S STEP-FATHER, POOR FELLOW!
THEY NEVER REALLY SAW EACH OTHER VERY MUCH, YOU KNOW!
NOW ALL OF RAVENLOCK WILL BE HIS... CASTLE AND CURSE!
IF ONLY... WHA... LOOK!!
IT'S ANGUS! WHAT'RE YOU DOING ON THE MOOR TONIGHT, McGREGOR?
I HEARD TROUBLE, SIR... THE GUNSHOTS!
OR MAYBE YOU WERE WAITING OUT HERE FOR LORD RAVENLOCK... OR RACHEL!
HEY! WHAT WAS SHE DOING OUT HERE, ANYWAY?
BUT...I DON'T EXACTLY KNOW... LIKE..LIKE SOMETHING CALLING ME... AS THOUGH I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE...LONG AGO! I..I CAN'T TELL YOU ANY MORE! P..PLEASE, DON'T ASK ME... PLEASE!
OKAY..! TAKE IT EASY, MISS!
YOU CAN SEE... ALL OF YOU CAN SEE... EVERY LIVING THING CAN SEE..BUT ME!
WHY DID GOD GIVE ME EYES IF I CAN'T SEE?
YEAH! I DON'T HAVE THE ANSWER... WISHT I DID! C'MON... LET'S GO BACK!
SURE...TAKE IT EASY, MISS! HOW EASY IT IS TO SAY!
AH... WHAT'S THAT?
THEY CALLED IT THE TOWER OF TERROR! HASN'T BEEN USED FOR CENTURIES!
PRISONERS WERE KEPT THERE.. UNTIL THEY WERE MADE TO TALK! IT'S FALLING APART NOW... LIKE A CRUMBLING MONUMENT TO ANOTHER ERA...A DEATH TRAP!
HMM! WHY DON'T YOU TAKE LORD GAVIN BACK TO THE CASTLE! I'LL BE ALONG SOON!
WAIT! LET ME STAY WITH YOU, PLEASE!
YOU MUST TRUST ME!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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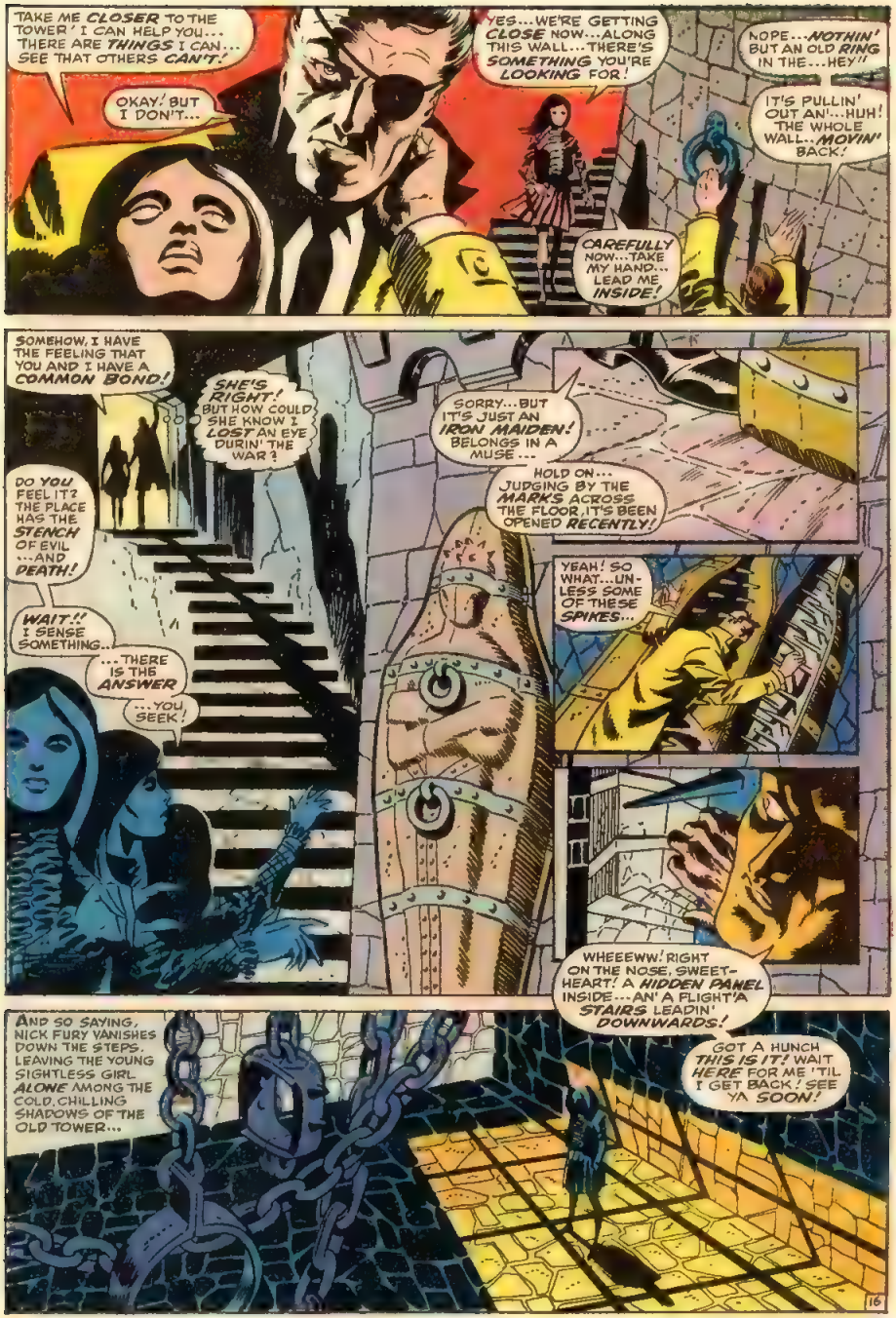
TAKE ME CLOSER TO THE TOWER! I CAN HELP YOU... THERE ARE THINGS I CAN... SEE THAT OTHERS CAN'T.
OKAY! BUT I DON'T...
YES... WE'RE GETTING CLOSE NOW... ALONG THIS WALL... THERE'S SOMETHING YOU'RE LOOKING FOR!
NOPE... NOTHIN' BUT AN OLD RING IN THE... HEY!!
IT'S PULLIN' OUT AN'... HUH! THE WHOLE WALL... MOVIN' BACK!
CAREFULLY NOW... TAKE MY HAND... LEAD ME INSIDE!
SOMEHOW, I HAVE THE FEELING THAT YOU AND I HAVE A COMMON BOND!
SHE'S RIGHT! BUT HOW COULD SHE KNOW I LOST AN EYE DURIN' THE WAR?
SORRY... BUT IT'S JUST AN IRON MAIDEN! BELONGS IN A MUSE...
HOLD ON... JUDGING BY THE MARKS ACROSS THE FLOOR, IT'S BEEN OPENED RECENTLY!
DO YOU FEEL IT? THE PLACE HAS THE STENCH OF EVIL ...AND DEATH!
WAIT!! I SENSE SOMETHING...
...THERE IS THE ANSWER
...YOU SEEK!
YEAH! SO WHAT... UNLESS SOME OF THESE SPIKES...
WHEEEWW! RIGHT ON THE NOSE, SWEETHEART! A HIDDEN PANEL INSIDE... AN' A FLIGHT'A STAIRS LEADIN' DOWNWARDS!
AND SO SAYING, NICK FURY VANISHES DOWN THE STEPS, LEAVING THE YOUNG SIGHTLESS GIRL ALONE AMONG THE COLD, CHILLING SHADOWS OF THE OLD TOWER...
GOT A HUNCH THIS IS IT! WAIT HERE FOR ME 'TIL I GET BACK! SEE YA SOON!

WAITING...WAITING.. WAITING THRU AN ETERNITY OF MINUTES ...WAITING IN THE HEAVY BROODING DARKNESS...YET HARDLY AS DARK, BY COMPARISON, TO THE GIRL'S OWN MIDNIGHT WORLD OF UNENDING BLACKNESS...
SUDDENLY, THE BLIND GIRL BECOMES AWARE OF A SHIFTING AMONG THE SHADOWS...HER SIGHTLESS EYES PERCEIVE A FURTIVE MOVEMENT IN THE ROOM...
A MOVEMENT CREEPING EVER CLOSER... WHILE THE OBJECT OF ITS PURSUIT CAN ONLY WAIT...
YOU LITTLE FOOL!
NOW, THERE'S NO OTHER WAY...YOU MUST DIE!
DON'T BET ON IT, MISTER!
IF YOU HURT THAT GIRL, I'LL KILL YA WITH MY BARE HANDS!
RACHEL! ARE YOU OKAY... RACHEL!
FURY...I'M ALL RIGHT... NOW!
BUT IN A MOMENT, IT WILL BE TOO LATE FOR BOTH OF YOU!
THEN, AT THE SIGNAL, THE HOUND OF HELL APPEARS, SEEMINGLY FROM NOWHERE... HIS CLAWS CLATTERING ACROSS THE STONE FLOOR IN AN UNEARTHLY STACCATO... GIVING FURY SPLIT-SECOND WARNING OF APPROACHING DEATH...
WHHEEEEEEEEEEE
17

YEAH, THE HOUND JUMPED UP AGAINST THE DOOR... SLAMMIN' IT CLOSED! BUT I'D JAMMED THE TRICK SPIKE THAT OPENED THE PANEL TO THE CAVERNS BELOW!
IT ONLY TOOK A SECOND TA GRAB THE GIRL AN' BOLT THE TOWER DOOR... LOCKIN' THE HOUND INSIDE... FOREVER!
THEN, WE CAME BACK HERE TO THE CASTLE!
I AIN'T NO SHERLOCK HOLMES, BUT I HAD IT FIGURED PRETTY CLOSE! SO DID KEN ASTOR! HE'D DISCOVERED A FANTASTIC PLOT BEHIND THE HELL-HOUND MURDERS! HE WIRED ME 'CAUSE... WELL, LET'S SAY I HAVE A SPECIAL INTEREST IN THESE THINGS!
I CAN'T SAY IF THERE REALLY ARE SPOOKS, BUT THAT LITTLE SCUFFLE TONIGHT CONVINCED ME THAT WAS NO GHOST I WAS FIGHTIN'! NOPE! IT WASN'T BLACK HUGH, BUT SIR GAVIN RAVENLOCK! SORRY, RAMPSON!
WHEN WE FOUND HIM DEAD ON THE MOOR, I WAS SURE OF IT! YA SEE, HE WAS KILLED TO KEEP HIS MOUTH SHUT... AN' TO THROW US OFF THE TRACK!
HE TRIED TO SCARE US OFF... MAYBE TO KILL THE GIRL, TOO! ONLY HE WASN'T PLANNIN' ON ME! I GOT A LITTLE SUSPICIOUS WHEN I SAW LORD GAVIN'S PORTRAIT... HE WAS A RINGER FOR THE GHOST OF HUGH RAVENLOCK!
ALSO, HE WAS THE ONLY ONE MISSING, 'SIDES ANGUS, WHO KNEW THE CASTLE!
CASTLES ARE FULL OF SECRET PASSAGEWAYS! THAT'S HOW HE PULLED THE VANISHING ACT!
HE PROBABLY GOT THAT WEIRD GHOST EFFECT BY BOMBARDING HIS CLOTHES WITH FLUORESCENT DYES THAT GLOWED UNDER SOME SORT OF BLACK LIGHT RIG! SAMS GOES FOR THE HOUND!
'COURSE ALLISTAIR RAMPSON WAS HIS STEPSON! EVEN SO, HE WAS SKEPTICAL OF THE KILLINGS! HE WAS SUSPECTING THE TRUTH!
AN' HE PROBABLY WOULDA BEEN THE NEXT VICTIM!
RRRRRRRRRRRRUUUUUUUUMMMMMMMM

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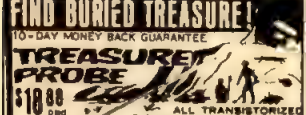

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"HEAR THAT *RUMBLIN'*?... IN A *MINUTE*, THE WHOLE PLACE IS GONNA GET SHOOK UP! YA SEE, THAT LITTLE *TOWER* IN YUR BACK YARD AIN'T AS *INNOCENT* AS IT LOOKS! THAT PANEL I OPENED, LED TO A DEEP *UNDERGROUND CHAMBER!* I FOLLOWED THE *WINDING STAIRS* DOWN TILL I RAN SMACK INTO A SCENE THAT NEARLY *KNOCKED ME* RIGHT ON MY TAIL.../ A COUPLA *DOZEN MEN* AN' A FULL-SIZE *SUB-MARINE! NO*, I AIN'T PUTTIN' YOU ON... I COULD HARDLY *BELIEVE IT MYSELF!* JUST BELOW ME WAS WHAT LOOKED LIKE A *RECORD ROOM*... I SLIPPED INTO IT TO SEE IF I COULD GET A *CLUE* TO THE SET-UP AN' FOUND A SET OF *LOG BOOKS!* THEN, THE PUZZLE STARTED *FALLIN' INTO PLACE!* BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THE REAL VILLAIN WAS *MYCROFT!* OR RATHER, *MILES VON CROFF*... EX-NAZI *U-BOAT COMMANDER*, WHO DISCOVERED THE *SECRET OF LOCH NESS* WITH ITS UNDER-WATER *ENTRANCES* AND CHANNELS! HE HOLED UP HERE *AFTER* THE WAR AN' MADE AN *ALLIANCE* WITH *LORD GAVIN!* HE TRADED HIS SAFETY *FOR TREASURE* AND WITH HIS CREW AND THE SUB, HE BECAME A *MODERN DAY PIRATE*... RAIDIN' OCEAN-GOING SHIPS, THEN *SINKING THEM!* THE SPOOK THING WAS ONLY A *COVER*...GAVE HIM A CHANCE TO MOVE AROUND *WITHOUT* ANY QUESTIONS ASKED! BUT THAT'S WHERE HIS PLAN GOT *HUNG UP*...WITH *RACHEL!* SHE WAS HIS WARD, BUT SHE *DIDN'T KNOW* ABOUT THIS DEAL! HE TOLD US ABOUT HER *PSYCHIC TALENT*...AN' HE WAS *RIGHT!* TAKE IT FROM ME, SHE'S GOT SOME KINDA *SIXTH SENSE* THAT DON'T QUIT! THING IS, HE GOT *SCARED* SHE'D FIND OUT HIS SECRET...SO HE PLANNED TA *KILL* HER, TOO! YEAH, IT WAS A NEAT LITTLE *PACKAGE*, BUT I GOT A FUNNY *FEELIN'* IT'S *ALL OVER!* THAT *RUMBLIN'*...YA SEE, BEFORE I LEFT, I CROSSED A COUPLA THEIR FUEL MIXTURE LINES AN' TURNED THE SUB INTO A *FLOATIN' BOMB!* SOUNDS LIKE SOME POOR SLOB ALREADY PUNCHED THE *STARTER BUTTON!* A' COURSE, THAT MEANS THE *TOWER*, *MYCROFT*, *HELL-HOUND* AN' ALL MUST'A *FELL IN* ON THAT UNDERGROUND BASE!"

YEAH...IT JUST GOES TO SHOW WHAT A GUY CAN DO IF HE PUTS HIS MIND TO IT...HUH?
BUT, THEY MUST HAVE BEEN SEEN SOMETIME!
SURE!! IN THE LOCH! AN' PEOPLE CALLED IT EVERYTHING BUT WHAT IT REALLY WAS!
OH NO! NOT THE LOCH NESS MONSTER?
WHY NOT? MAKES A LOT MORE SENSE THAN A GIANT SEA CREATURE! THINK ABOUT IT!
YES!! YES...I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN!
MYCROFT TIPPED ME OFF WHEN HE HANDED ME THAT GUN! IT WAS LOADED WITH BLANKS... FELT TOO LIGHT TA HAVE REAL BULLETS IN IT!
AN' I HANDLED ENOUGH GUNS IN MY LIFETIME TA KNOW!
OF COURSE... THAT'S WHY YOU COULDN'T KILL THE HOUND!
YEAH, THAT'S THE WAY HE PLANNED IT! PROBABLY TRAINED THE HOUND, TOO!
SORRY, SWEETHEART... BUT NO USE LYIN' TO YA! YOU WERE ONLY PART OF HIS COVER, KINDA LIKE INSURANCE! LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN NOW!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...HE WAS LIKE MY OWN FATHER!
AYE, LASS...BUT YE MIGHT AS WELL KNOW THE TRUTH NOW! MYCROFT LIVED AT RAVENLOCK YEARS AGO... MY BROTHER WAS CARE-TAKER THEN! AND HE HAD A BABY! BUT, HE WAS SICK...HIS WIFE HADN'T LIVED THRU CHILDBIRTH! HE ASKED MYCROFT TO CARE FOR THE CHILD BEFORE HE DIED!
THAT CHILD WAS... YOU, RACHEL!
THEN...THEN...
AYE...AN' IT'S HERE YE'LL BE STAYIN' FROM NOW ON...
HERE AT RAVENLOCK WHERE YE BELONG!
COUNTESS CAUTION, EH? WADDAYA SAY WE LET 'EM GET ACQUAINTED, HUH? HOW'S ABOUT SWAPPIN' A COUPL'A GHOST TALES?
YEAH! LOOKS LIKE I CAN PUT THIS TRIP ON THE OL' SHIELD EXPENSE ACCOUNT AFTER ALL!
AND SO, THE CURSE OF CASTLE RAVENLOCK CAME TO AN END... BUT, NOT BEFORE MANY LIVES HAD FALLEN 'NEATH THE ANCIENT BLOOD OATH... WHO WAS IT SAID THE EVIL THAT MEN DO LIVES AFTER THEM? PERHAPS HE WAS RIGHT, AFTER ALL... WE'LL LET YOU BE THE JUDGE...
R.I.P.
BLACK HUGH RAVENLOCK

GANGWAY, WORLD! MARVEL'S MARCHING ON!

ITEM! We admit it! We can't say "no" to Marveldom Asembled! You've been clamoring for the Silver Surfer in his own mag, and you finally got to us! But we were so carried away by the whole thing that, before we knew it, we had a jumbo-sized 25¢ blockbusting space saga on our hands! Yep, it's on sale now — another truly brilliant production from The House of Ideas — SILVER SURFER #1, featuring perhaps the longest, greatest ORIGIN tale you've ever read! Written by our grinnin' guru, Stan the Man, it's illustrated in modern-day majesty by Big John Buscema and Lonesome Joe Sinnott — and wait'll you see the second surprise feature, by Smiley and Gentleman Gene Colan! It's just too much! And it's not just a one-shot, hear? SILVER SURFER will be published regularly; so this is your chance to latch onto the first of a new, sizzling, soul-shattering series, as only your bludgeoning Bullpen could produce it!

ITEM! This'll really rock you! Our own monthly little excursion into Marvel madness — namely, NOT BRAND ECHH — has become such a spine tingling success that we've no choice but to publish it in a new king sized edition, starting this month! Yep, BRECHH will cost two-bits from now on, but it'll be twice as much mag! And best of all — it's broadening its hysterical horizons, taking pot shots at a much wider variety of screwball subjects! While you're triumphantly snaring the SILVER SURFER, be sure to grab NOT BRAND ECHH also, and you'll have scored the greatest double-play of the month! And incidentally, we're anxious to hear how you like N B E's new title lettering this ish — so clue us in, huh?

ITEM! Naturally, everybody's been talking about Marvel's greatest publishing project of all — the sensational SPIDER-MAN Spectacular which went on sale last month! It's already completely sold out in many areas (such as the neighborhood where Jazzy Johnny's family lives!) — but there are still enough copies printed to be sure that no Marvelite Johnny Come-Lately will be disappointed. Remember, if you've been having trouble finding this extra-thick, extra-large 35¢ slickpaper mag, with its gorgeous oil-painting cover, be sure to ask your newsdealer for it. There's a good chance that he's displaying your Spidey Spectacular amongst his more expensive top selling mags — so be sure to look all over for it, not merely on the comics mag racks. Once you get your greedily-clutching claws on it, you'll see why it was well worth all the trouble — and we're not just wiggin' our webs, pilgrim!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

THE 35¢ SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #1: Still on sale! Half the fun is just trying to FIND it on the mag racks! A brand-new villain, a brand-new 52-page action thriller, and a brand-new version of the now-famous Origin of Spidey! Don't dare miss it!

NOT BRAND ECHH #9: At last, Brechh goes king-size! Twice as big and twice as hilarious as ever before! More super-stupor-heroes! More giddy gags, groovy gimmicks, and gruesome gargoyles! It's Marvel at its maddest! (And wait'll you see our take-off on Bonnie and Clyde!)

SILVER SURFER #1: Featuring the origin epic of the century! With cameo guest appearances by The Fantastic Four, the Incredible Hulk, and the gargantuan Galactus! A brand-new smash hit, starring the most dramatic hero of all time — in an adventure as big as outer space itself!

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

We sometimes receive letters accusing us of publishing too many different titles. A number of fans have said it's too expensive trying to buy all our mags, and they ask us not to be so greedy, and to publish less of 'em. So, we thought you might like to hear OUR side of it. The only reason we constantly add new titles is because YOU ask for them. Thousands upon thousands of your letters demanded that we give Cap, Shell Head, Namor, and all the others their own magazines. In fact, remember when we tried to discontinue the Hulk some years ago? Your unceasing outcry forced us to bring him back, despite the fact that it imposed a tremendous strain upon our already overworked staff. And each time we try to publish fewer 25¢ summer Specials, you swamp us with letters demanding more than ever. Personally, we'd be happy to let up a bit. Many of us, including yours truly, haven't had a vacation in years! But, our policy was, is, and always will be to give Marveldom what it asks for, and judging by our ever-skyrocketing sales, we're not far from the mark. That's the lowdown, loyal one. We don't want you to spend all your bread on our mags, honest. But, so long as the dramatic demand for them continues, we can't turn a deaf ear. Anyway, remember this: no matter how many stories we create each month, our credo will always be the same — Nil Nisi Optimus — nothing but the best! Excelsior!

—Smiley

FANTASTIC FOUR #77: Trapped in the most indescribable world of all, the greatest team of superheroes on earth battles for their lives against the uncanny Psycho-Man — while the Silver Surfer and Galactus come face-to-face once more!

SPIDER-MAN #63: The biggest surprise of the season! The original Vulture lives again! See him together with the new Vulture — and then, just as you'd expect — see what happens when the world's most popular web-spinner swings into action! It's dazzlin' dynamite!

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #15: One of the greatest! The most glamorous Inhuman of all — the magnificent, mysterious Medusa, in a feature-length blockbuster with guest-stars galore, and the amazingly awesome artwork of Gentleman Gene Colan! How much suspense can you stand?

AVENGERS #54: Never before such an awesome array of baneful baddies! The mind-bending Melter — the sinister Klaw — Radioactive Man — Whirlwind — and the enigmatic Black Knight — all led by the mysterious Crimson Cowl! Six great reasons to buy this spectacular ish!

X-MEN #46: This is it! The story you thought you'd never see . . . the event you thought would never happen . . ."The X-Men Split Up!" — But not before they must once again face the most deadly of all enemies . . . the Juggernaut! It's a mutant mind-snapper!

DAREDEVIL #42: A brand-new super-powered arch-foe makes the scene, as the exciting Jester is born! But what about DD? With his "brother" Mike now dead, how can Matt Murdock face one of the most astonishingly different villains of his career?

MIGHTY THOR #154: Can you picture a menace so powerful that even Ulik fears him? Well, mighty Thor has to do more than picture him! If the Thunder God can't find a way to defeat the monstrous Man-gog, all of Asgard is doomed — and Loki will triumph at last!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #104: So long as Cap wears a strip of nuclear tape at the back of his neck, he must be a slave to the Red Skull! But, if he should take it off, he dies! We don't know how even Stan and Jack can help our shield-swingin' Avenger get out of this one!

INCREDIBLE HULK #106: The senses-shattering climax of the cataclysmic clash between our green-skinned goliath and the madly malicious Missing Link! It's a wallopin' super-saga you'll never forget!

IRON MAN #4: Remember the uncanny Unicorn, from the early days of mighty Marvel? Well, he's back — with enough pure, unadulterated power to knock even our great golden gladiator for a loop! It's action time . . . in the joltin' Johnny Craig style! And talk about suspense—!

SUB-MARINER #4: At long last, Prince Namor returns to his wandering subjects just in time to find them menaced by one of the most awesome sub-sea conquerors of all . . . the evil Attuma! Plus some of the wildest mind-staggering underwater battle-scenes in comic-mag history!

MARVEL'S SPACE-BORN SUPERHERO!
CAPTAIN MARVEL #4: While the world's greatest city holds its breath, our cosmic crusader slugs it out with the sensational Sub-Mariner! But, which is hero — and which is villain? Don't answer till you read the whole ish!

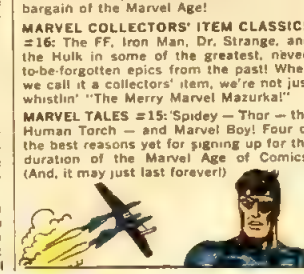
DR. STRANGE #171: You've asked for it — you've demanded it — and now you've got it! Our mystic master begins the long-delayed search for his beloved Clea, which leads him into a dread new dimension — and leaves him at the mercy of his most magically malevolent foe! 'Nuff said!

SGT. FURY #56: You'll hold your breath as Gabe Jones, at his bugle-blowin' best, goes all out to rescue a beautiful jazz singer from a Nazi stronghold — with a little help from his Wah-Hoooin' buddies, natch! After this, war mags may never be the same!

CAPTAIN SAVAGE #4: At last, Captain Savage and Baron Strucker clash head-on in a deadly struggle for control of Hydra Island! All this and the origin of Hydra, too, have to add up to the biggest battle-mag bargain of the Marvel Age!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #16: The FF, Iron Man, Dr. Strange, and the Hulk in some of the greatest, never-to-be-forgotten epics from the past! When we call it a collectors' item, we're not just whistlin' "The Merry Marvel Mazurka!"

MARVEL TALES #15: Spidey — Thor — the Human Torch — and Marvel Boy! Four of the best reasons yet for signing up for the duration of the Marvel Age of Comics! (And, it may just last forever!)



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Dear Stan and Jim,

When I saw the ending of the Shield story in #167, I was, at first, puzzled. Then it dawned upon me that none of the stories in the past few issues had occurred in the world of comic reality. Please correct me if I'm wrong, but I think that the past few months have been nothing but robots acting out that "whachamacallit's" and Dr. Doom's moves in the strangest chess game of all time. During one moment, I thought that a madman had written the story. Next I felt cheated because none of those events ever happened. Then I thought for a minute, let my emotions cool, and began to think logically. I asked myself questions, such as, "Does this mean that none of the other Nick Fury stories occurred?" I decided that it does not. "Is this your way of ending the series?" I cannot decide on that as yet. I also decided that someone approaching genius, not a madman, wrote the story. I liked the art tremendously and the action was great. How did Dr. Doom know so much about Shield? I now understand that Dr. Doom was behind everything. He had created the Yellow Claw and the others. I also understand that Nick Fury was real and he had foiled Dr. Doom's plans. You must admit that my first impression was novel. Thanks for your attention. In conclusion, I have decided that I like the story!

Tony Muscatello, Rt. #1, Box 329
Bluefield, W. Va. 24701

Glad you liked it, Tony! You're right . . . all the episodes in the series did, indeed, really happen! The automatons were controlled by Doc Doom! Fury and Shield simply reacted to the situations created by Doom! These reactions were represented by figures on Doom's chessboard! Dig? Come to think of it, we're not so sure it wasn't written by a madman!

Dear Stan and Jim,

Congratulations on, indeed, the wildest and most beautiful action scene ever. Of course, I'm referring to that terrific four-page spread in #167. Keep those new agents coming, especially Val Fountaine and Clay Quartermain. Please keep Jasper Sitwell with Tony Stark, and let's get Gaff Levine into the act a little more often. As for Dum-Dum Dugan and Gabe Jones, how about making them special operatives with Captain America. Just keep up your fantastic scripting, unbelievable artwork, and super-colossal serials, guys, and I may be elected president of the Adjectives Club, a subsidiary of Shield Enterprises Inc.

Corbett Besco, Rt. #3, Box 123
Ironton, Ohio 45638

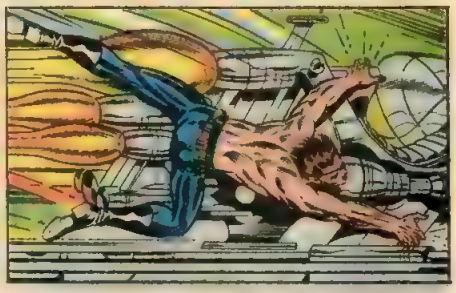
After anxiously reading your lavishly laudatory letter, we unanimously underwrote your prodigious project for presidency! Just remember our super-salient slogan, "Get Culture . . . Read Marvel!"

Dear Stan and Jim,

I have read "Today Earth Died" and it is to me a very sad story. The concepts beyond the script and art are all too true. This planet is flowing over with hate, greed, and fear. The fact that Fury only dreamed the episode did not change my feelings. The world's greatest danger lies within the crowds of ordinary people all over it. Those 11 pages had deep, hidden psychological lessons buried within it that I cannot describe. We humans have fallen so deep into the mud of evil that we can't pull ourselves out. We look for help from the skies and when a superior being comes, we follow blindly. Page 10 filled me with such pity for the world that I couldn't turn the page. The last illustration was a true picture of fear, and Dugan's comment only made it worse. I hope the story is not continued and I also hope the UFO Dugan talked about really is nothing. Continuation would ruin the plot because this is a perfect story in itself. If this letter was rather long, I hope it will be excused because there was no other way to accurately express myself.

Robert Rapp, 1823 W. Shannon
Spokane, Wash. 99205

Bobby Boy, you said it all! "Today Earth Died" was written as an allegory! We trust that beneath the surface entertainment value of the story, you wouldn't mind some of Steranko's perceptive social commentary! And when we showed Jim your letter, he said wouldn't it be wild if Bob woke up after reading this letter and discovered it's all a dream . . . a dream . . . a dream . . .



Dear Stan and Jim,

Colonel Fury's nightmare in STRANGE TALES #168 was amusing, but — stop it there, friend. I personally do not like "dream stories" because they're rather anticlimactic. A dream story is a pretty bad way of ducking an ending. Never again. But I would say that the scene depicted on page 10 was a real heart-stopper. How was it done?

Michael B. Holt, 8403 Zell Lane
Richmond, Va. 23229

Well, Mike, we usually leave the "dream stories" to that other company . . . but we're betting the twist ending came as a big surprise to you! And that's exactly what we were aiming at! We asked Jim about page ten, but he simply said it was one of his special effects — and then vanished in a helix of inexorable light! Sheesh!

Don't get frantic, faithful ones! We haven't permanently cut our liltin' letters section to one page. We just needed an extra page this month for a senses-shattering special announcement which you'll find elsewhere in this ish! Next month everything will be back to normal, meaning two full pages of your cavortin' correspondence and your batty Bullpen's agonizin' answers! We promise, pussycat!

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